



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEN HUESO

District Eight

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For Immediate Release

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Second Annual Tijuana River Valley Cleanup

Council President Hueso Initiated First Event in 2008

SAN DIEGO – On Saturday, June 6, Council President Ben Hueso joined members of the Tijuana River Citizens' Council to help "spring clean" a portion of one of our County's most valuable natural resources, the environmentally sensitive and extremely vulnerable Tijuana River Valley.

The Tijuana River Citizens' Council, WiLDCOAST, and the Surfrider Foundation's San Diego Chapter organized the successful effort. A large and diverse group of 300 volunteers included business owners, ranchers, environmentalists, families, surfers, and students, among others. In just three hours, they removed 6 tons of tires (more than 700) and 2 tons of trash. They also cleared the invasive plant species Castor Bean and Arundo.

In removing the trash that accumulates and pollutes the immediate area and local beaches, volunteers accomplish more than simple beautification. They help draw attention to an area that needs our protection so that San Diegan residents are more likely to be able to use the trails for walking, hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. "Our proactive and long term is to prevent debris from washing into this area," says Hueso. "I am committed to improving our floodplain's water quality and surrounding natural habitat."

The event was supported by the Tijuana River Citizens' Council, WiLDCOAST, Surfrider San Diego, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, REI, Patagonia, and Allied Waste.

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